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author to relate his work to the rather extensive work done on the differential absorption of ions by plant structures and the resulting changes in the reaction of the substratum.²² This promises explanation of the corrosive action of roots, their great power to absorb salts from soils, as well as their ability to redden neutral litmus. On account of this process some method other than that used by the author will probably need to be employed for investigating acid secretion in natural growth conditions, in the presence of nutrient solutions or soil. The value of this work as a basis for a general conclusion is doubtful, considering that only two experiments were performed on a single species, and these in an abnormal condition.—WM. CROCKER.

Subantarctic and New Zealand floras.—SKOTTSBERG²³ has continued the series of comparisons made between the floras of portions of the southern hemisphere characterizing the previous work of HOOKER, DIELS, SCHIMPER, WERTH, CHEESEMAN, and CHILTON, and revising the list of bicentric types by taking recent additions to the flora of Subantarctic America and New Zealand into consideration. The list includes 49 orders. These may be referred to groups comprising (1) an Australian and New Zealand element in America, (2) an Andine element in New Zealand and Australia, and (3) an old Antarctic element which is more strictly bicentric. Of the last group *Nothofagus* is a striking example, with 6 species in New Zealand, 1 in Tasmania, 1 in Tasmania and New South Wales, 1 in New South Wales, and 8 in Chili with 3 extending to Fuegia.

He includes some recent evidence from fossil plants found in Graham Land, and concludes that there existed an Antarctic Tertiary flora resembling the present floras of Subantarctic America, New Zealand, and Australia, and that the Antarctic continent may have been a center of evolution from which plants and animals wandered north. The present flora is due therefore to a combination of old wanderings, the extinction of certain species during the Ice Age, the survival of others, and finally transoceanic migrations, which, if they ever took place, are still going on.—GEO. D. FULLER.

Subalpine plants of the Rocky Mountains.—Adding to a series of phyto-geographical papers upon the Rocky Mountain region already noted,²⁴ RYDBERG²⁵ has analyzed the subalpine flora of the region. It consists of about 800 species, of which only 10 per cent are entirely restricted to the subalpine zone. About 20 per cent of the whole number are transcontinental plants,

²² SKENE, M., The acidity of *Sphagnum* and its relation to chalk and mineral salts. Ann. Botany 29:65-87. 1915.

²³ SKOTTSBERG, CARL, Notes on the relations between the floras of Subantarctic America and New Zealand. Plant World 18:129-142. 1915.

²⁴ BOT. GAZ. 62:83-84. 1916.

²⁵ RYDBERG, P. A., Phytogeographical notes on the Rocky Mountain region. VI. Distribution of the subalpine plants. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 43:343-364. 1916